

In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked-up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please cancel claims 36, 39, 40 and 43 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend pending claim 33 as noted below.

Please add new claims 44, 45, and 46.

1-32. (Cancelled).

33. (Currently amended) A method for assessing a compound's ability to ~~inhibit JNK kinase activity and thereby~~ prevent neuronal cell death occurring in a mammal susceptible to or having a neurological condition, comprising: (a) administering to an animal an amount of a compound that specifically inhibits JNK kinase activity under conditions sufficient to allow for proper pharmacodynamic absorption and distribution thereof in the animal; ~~and~~ (b) harvesting a neuronal tissue sample from the animal and (c) determining apoptosis in the tissue sample the physiological status of the animal; wherein a change in apoptosis in the neuronal tissue sample physiological status, when compared to apoptosis in a neuronal tissue sample from an animal not administered the compound, is indicative of the compound's ability to ~~inhibit JNK kinase activity and thereby~~ prevent neuronal cell death occurring in a mammal susceptible to or having a neurological condition.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein JNK is JNK1, JNK2 or JNK3, or combinations thereof.

35-43. (Cancelled).

44. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis is determined using a TUNEL assay.

45. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis is determined by administration of [γ -³²]ATP to the animal and detecting the amount of phosphorylated c-Jun in the neuronal tissue sample.
46. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis is determined by Hoechst 3342 staining.